UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25979
21 June 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 21 JUNE 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 June 1993 from Mr. Mohammed Said al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, with an English translation of the text.

The letter contains an explanation of Iraq's position on the matters put forward by the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission during the Council's deliberations on 18 June 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Adnan MALIK
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 20 June 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

We have seen the statement issued by the Security Council following its meeting on Friday, 18 June 1993, in which the Council discussed subjects to do with Iraq. We have also learned that Ambassador Rolf Ekéus, the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, participated in the meeting and that it was he who presented the position of Iraq on a number of issues.

We wished to be invited ourselves to present, in a direct manner or by personal attendance, the Iraqi position on the matters concerning Iraq on the agenda of the Friday meeting. We were, however, denied the opportunity so to do; and the Security Council found it sufficient to listen to the views submitted by the UNSCOM Executive Chairman, and subsequently issued its statement on the subject. We therefore find it necessary to clarify the position of Iraq on the matter presented by the UNSCOM Executive Chairman.

The Special Commission, which has in actual fact completed supervising the implementation of all the fundamental parts of section C of resolution 687 (1991), wants now to begin implementing the provisions of resolution 715 (1991) without having committed itself to informing the Security Council that Iraq's compliance with the provisions of section C of resolution 687 (1991) makes it incumbent upon the Council to begin considering in earnest the implementation of paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991), i.e., lifting the economic sanctions imposed upon Iraq.

This is the main issue; and to describe the situation in the manner presented by the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, claiming that Iraq has been in violation of resolution 687 (1991), is something that cannot be further from the truth. Iraq has indeed accepted and actually implemented this resolution. But the resolution itself states, in paragraph 22, that the Security Council:

> "Decides that upon the approval by the Council of the programme called for in paragraph 19 above and upon Council agreement that Iraq has completed all actions contemplated in paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 above, the prohibitions against the import of commodities and products originating in Iraq and the prohibitions against financial transactions related thereto contained in resolution 661 (1990) shall have no further force or effect".

This paragraph is as much mandatory as are all other parts of the resolution. To claim that Iraq has been, or intends to be, in violation of resolution 687 (1991) is totally baseless. Iraq has implemented all the fundamental obligations contained in this resolution. What is happening now, in actual fact, is that Iraq is being subjected to a politically motivated position which demands that Iraq should implement everything stated in the resolutions of the Security Council without the Council showing any commitment, for its part, to the lifting of the economic blockade imposed upon the Iraqi people.

This politically motivated and unjust position, which certain parties are trying to enforce, runs counter to the provisions of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). Iraq is ready to fulfil the remainder, if any, of its obligations. The Security Council should also, for its part, be ready to honour its obligations and should refrain from imposing additional political conditions upon Iraq in this regard.

Iraq has requested that the President of the Security Council conduct a professional, legal and technical review of what has been implemented of resolution 687 (1991), so that each party concerned should know their real duties and obligations as contained in the resolution and what has been implemented thereof.

Those who say that Iraq wants to see the resolutions of the Security Council renegotiated tell no truth whatsoever.

Our request is clear. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq stated the following in his letter of 30 May 1993:

> "This request does not mean any renegotiation; but it means an objective review so that the Council may begin to consider in earnest the lifting of the economic blockade which has been imposed upon Iraq for nearly three years now."

The question of resolution 715 (1991) is integrally linked to this matter.

It is not fair to demand that Iraq give everything for nothing in return.

If the Council shows readiness to lift the economic blockade imposed upon Iraq, then Iraq will be ready to begin intensive work with the Special Commission to consider the subsequent stage which is to do with monitoring.

The Executive Chairman of the Special Commission has addressed three technical subjects in his report, through which he gave a selectively distorted and inaccurate picture of the Iraqi position, thus failing to present a true and comprehensive picture of this position. We therefore find it necessary to make clear Iraq's position in this respect:

1. <u>The installation of monitoring cameras</u>

The position taken by the competent Iraqi authorities on the request of the Special Commission, that remote-control cameras be installed for the ongoing monitoring of test stands at two sites of rocket not prohibited under the resolutions of the Security Council, is based on the following:

(a) The installation of such cameras on a permanent basis is one of the measures of ongoing monitoring, and not amongst the inspection measures covered by resolution 687 (1991). None of the numerous inspection teams that have so far visited Iraq, over a period of more than two years, has asked for such cameras to be installed on a permanent basis.

(b) The installations of ongoing monitoring cameras falls outside the purview of resolution 687 (1991). It is a measure that comes rather within the

framework of matters and questions that are still the subject of dialogue between the competent Iraqi authorities, on the one hand, and the Special Commission on the other.

(c) Iraq did not reject the principle of ongoing monitoring to which reference is made in resolution 687 (1991). Iraq has already accepted this resolution and has implemented all the fundamental obligations contained therein.

(d) Iraq neither possesses nor produces any missiles with a range of over 150 km. Inspection teams can make repeated visits to the two rocket test stands at the two sites of al-Yawm al-Adhim and al-Rafaah. We wish to stress at this point that UNSCOM 57, headed by Mr. Nikita Smidovich, is currently discharging the tasks entrusted to it by the Special Commission with the cooperation required of the competent Iraqi authorities. This team has conducted several technical discussions with the Iraqi side, and made many visits to the sites they wished to see.

2. Destruction of chemical production equipment

The equipment referred to in the report of the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission as "$POCl_3$, PCl_3", which are at al-Falluja site, are brand new and have never been in operation before; nor have they been used for any purpose whatsoever, prohibited or non-prohibited. These equipment can be used in the production of all sorts of prohibited and non-prohibited chemical materials. They can also be used in the production of many non-prohibited chemicals, particularly pesticides for agricultural purposes.

Iraq has requested the Special Commission not to destroy this equipment in view of its vital usefulness in the production of pesticides for agricultural purposes, which constitutes one of Iraq's crucial needs at present, in view of the continued imposition of the blockade and embargo upon this country, and because Iraq is, in all circumstances, an agricultural country and agriculture is essential to providing the most basic requirements of human life. Specialists involved in the work of the UNSCOM inspection teams are well aware that that equipment is extremely useful in the production of pesticides for agricultural purposes. The competent Iraqi authorities have proposed that an objective technical dialogue be conducted between Iraqi and UNSCOM specialists with a view to rendering that equipment harmless, in whatever technological manner deemed suitable, so that it cannot be used except for non-prohibited purposes. The competent Iraqi authorities have also expressed readiness to come to an agreement with the Special Commission on how to ensure the guarantees that will make the Commission sufficiently satisfied that these equipment will continue, in the long run, to be used for non-prohibited purposes. Why then does the UNSCOM Executive Chairman close the door before such a technical dialogue to be held in that an agreement may be reached on the use of the equipment in question?

3. Helicopter flights over Baghdad city

We wish to begin by pointing out that there is an agreement still valid between the competent Iraqi authorities and the Special Commission to the effect that no flights should be conducted over populated areas anywhere in Iraq, which

covers, as the UNSCOM Executive Chairman is undoubtedly aware, the capital, Baghdad, before all other areas for consideration of sovereignty and security which can involve sensitive and dangerous aspects.

When we consider this subject from a purely technical standpoint, we fail to comprehend the reasons behind the insistence that such flights continue to be conducted over the city of Baghdad. If the purpose is to ensure speedy arrival while making surprise visits to chosen sites, then the inspection team can reach by car any site within the Baghdad area from the hotel in which the team resides in much less than the time needed to drive from the hotel to the airport and then fly by helicopter from the airport to the site desired. If the objective is to do with the technical aspect of aerial photography, the Iraqi side has also expressed its readiness to arrange for photographs to be taken from high-rise buildings of other sites needed to be photographed.

These are the facts about the subjects discussed with the Special Commission, and these have been the views and proposals of the Iraqi competent authorities on them. We are extremely surprised by the attempts of the UNSCOM Executive Chairman to distort the Iraqi position, accuse Iraq of non-compliance with Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and incite the Council against Iraq, when he should be conveying to the Council the true picture about the long way Iraq has gone in implementing all the fundamental parts of section C of resolution 687 (1991).

We look forward to seeing the Security Council study the considerations of the Iraqi position which I have explained to you in this letter. These are considerations based on truth and justice. We also look forward to seeing the Council urge for a professional, legal and technical review to be conducted on what has been achieved of resolution 687 (1991), now that all the fundamental obligations of section C have been implemented, so that the Council can begin, in earnest, lifting the economic blockade which has been imposed upon Iraq for three years now.

(Signed) Mohammed Said al-Sahaf
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq